

## RE: Public Records Request - ATTN: Washington State Law Library

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From library.requests <Library.Requests@courts.wa.gov>

To bkastning<bkastning@protonmail.com>

Date Monday, November 4th, 2019 at 2:30 PM

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Mr. Kastning,

This email is to provide clarification of my 10/31/2019 response to your public records request. As I said, the State Law Library is an agency in the judicial branch of the State of Washington. Even though we have webpages on the Washington Courts website, we are a separate agency from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

The State Law Library does not create or maintain slip opinions in relation “to the management, supervision, or administration” of our agency. Slip opinions created by Washington Supreme Court and Court of Appeals do not meet the definition of the *State Law Library's* “administrative records” under GR 31.1.

I cannot speak for AOC, the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. I suggest you review this website, [http://www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/publication/?fa=newsinfo\\_publication.administrativepublicrecords](http://www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/publication/?fa=newsinfo_publication.administrativepublicrecords), for information on submitting requests to them.

Regards,

Jennifer Laine

Administrative Coordinator

Washington State Law Library

Temple of Justice, 415 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Olympia, WA 98501

360-357-2136

[General Email](#) [Website](#) [Blog](#)

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**From:** Brandon Kastning [mailto:bkastning@protonmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2019 3:21 PM

**To:** Library, Requests <Library.Requests@courts.wa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Public Records Request - ATTN: Washington State Law Library

Jennifer Laine,

I have looked at domain TLD: [www.courts.wa.gov](http://www.courts.wa.gov) (same e-mail TLD you are sending from).

That same server is hosting Slip Opinions of Unpublished and Published Washington State Court Opinions; Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, Division I, II and III.

See here: <https://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/index.cfm?fa=opinions.displayAll>

However, OUR [www.courts.wa.gov](http://www.courts.wa.gov) only allows the public to view 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The computer server(s) and backup(s) \*MUST\* have previous years before 2013.

See the following for evidence: <https://web.archive.org/web/20100804073939/http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/index.cfm>

(Slips from 2010)

I'm positive you have those on your server(s). It's technically impossible to not!

Please re-evaluate this request with another staff member as this is a public request and the release of these slips will be publicly archived.

“The authentic exposition and interpretation of the law, which, binding every citizen, is free for publication to all, whether it is a declaration of a constitution or a statute.” - (128 U.S. 244, 1888).

Best Regards,

Brandon Kastning

Pre-Law / Constitutionalist

206-429-1969

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

----- Original Message -----

On Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:30 PM, Library, Requests <[Library.Requests@courts.wa.gov](mailto:Library.Requests@courts.wa.gov)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Kastning;

I am responding to your public records request for an electronic version of all published and unpublished Washington Supreme Court and Court of Appeals slip opinions dating 1854-current. We received your request via email on 10/29/2019.

Public records requests directed to the State Law Library are governed by GR 31.1 rather than by the Public Records Act, chapter 42.56 RCW.

The State Law Library is a judicial branch agency of the State of Washington. The State Law Library does not have any administrative records, as defined in GR 31.1, that are responsive to your public records request. Under GR 31.1, "administrative records" are public records created or maintained by a judicial agency that relate to the management, supervision, or administration of the judicial agency. The State Law Library does not create or maintain any of its own slip opinions.

The items contained in the State Law Library's general collection of research materials do not qualify as administrative records under GR 31.1's definition. However, items in this collection are available for research through traditional library procedures.

The State Law Library's collection does *not* include Washington State Supreme Court or Court of Appeals slip opinions. However, we do have a collection of Washington Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions published in *Washington Reports* and *Washington Appellate Reports* (the official reporters.) Information about the difference between slip opinions and official reporters can be found at:

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/index.cfm?fa=opinions.page&pgname=opinionBackground>.

You may want to contact Washington State Archives, [https://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives\\_state.aspx](https://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives_state.aspx), regarding the scope of their Washington State Supreme Court or Court of Appeals collections, as well as their services.

Finally, other law libraries around the state have *Washington Reports* and *Washington Appellate Reports*

in their collections. Some might have slip opinions. Listings for academic law libraries, court libraries, and county law libraries can be found here:

<https://webdev.courts.wa.gov/library/?fa=library.display&fileID=dspNeedHelp>

Regards,

Jennifer Laine

Administrative Coordinator

Washington State Law Library

Temple of Justice, 415 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Olympia, WA 98501

360-357-2136

[General Email](#) [Website](#) [Blog](#)

**From:** Brandon Kastning [<mailto:bkastning@protonmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2019 4:13 AM

**To:** Library, Requests <[Library.Requests@courts.wa.gov](mailto:Library.Requests@courts.wa.gov)>

**Subject:** Public Records Request - ATTN: Washington State Law Library

ATTN: Washington State Law Library - Public Records Department

I have attached my PDR Request as a PDF for Slip Opinions Published and Unpublished for Washington State Court of Appeals and Washington State Supreme Court with date range from 1854-Current in various computer format(s).

“The authentic exposition and interpretation of the law, which, binding every citizen, is free for publication to all, whether it is a declaration of a constitution or a statute.” - (128 U.S. 244, 1888).

Thank you very much!

Best Regards,

Brandon Kastning

Pre-Law / Constitutionalist

206-429-1969

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.